By Mr. SKELTON : A bill for the establishment of an

agricultural bureau. Also, a bill to provide for the sale and settlement of the Also, a bill for the relief of Elizabeth Long.

By Mr. LATHAM: A bill to grant certain privileges to the trusiees of the University of the Pacific, situated in the county of Santa Clara, in the State of California. By Mr. PHILLIPS: A bill to grant alternate sections of the public lands to aid in the construction of a railroad Mobile to New Orleans. By Mr. WELLS: A bill for a grant of the public lands

to aid in the construction of a railroad from Lake Winnebago, in Wisconsin, to Lake Superior, in Michigan. By Mr. LYON: A bill for the establishment of a na ional agricultural college and experimental farm.

By Mr. ABERCROMBIE: A bill asking a grant of pub

lie land to aid in the construction of a railroad from Girard, Alabama, to Mobile .-

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES. Mr. CLINGMAN gave notice of a motion to abolish as

instead of petitions.

Senate bill to indemnify the State of Indians for the

Considerable debate ensued; when— On motion of Mr. MILLSON, the bill was committed to

the Committee of the Whole CHAPLAIN TO THE HOUSE. On motion of Mr. FLORENCE, the House then proceeded to the election of a Chaplain for the present session; and nominations being called for many were made Messrs. English, Cullon, Harris, of Indiana, and

Matteson having been appointed tellers, the vote was taken, with the following result: For Rev. Mr. Tustin, 58; Rev. W. H. Milburn, 56; Rev. T. C. Teasdale, 33; Rev. C. D. Westbrook, 14; Rev. A. Holmead, 14; Rev. John W. Jackson, 11; Rev. Wm. Chapin, 5; Rev. Mr. Beecher, 2; Rev. Mr. Hos-mer, 2; Rev. Mr. Hodges, 2; Rev. Mr. Hutchinson, 1; Rev. Mr. Donelly, 1; Miss Antoinette Brown, 1. Total,

200. Necessary to a choice 101. There being no election, a second ballot was had, with the following result: For Mr. Milburn, 117; Mr. Teasdale, 22; Mr. Tustin

55; Mr. Holmead, 4; Mr. Jackson, 1; Miss Antoinette Brown, 1. Total, 200. Necessary to a choice 101. Mr. Milburn, having received a majority of the whole number of votes cast, was declared duly elected Chaplain for the present session. The House then adjourned.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1853.

IN SENATE.

Mr. JONES, of Iowa, moved that when the Senate adjourn it adjourn to meet on Monday next. That step he considered was called for as well to enable them to prepare for the arrangement of the standing committees as to secure suitable and agreeable locations for their residences during the coming winter. The motion was agreed to.

DEATH OF VICE PRESIDENT KING.

Mr. HUNTER. Since the adjournment of the las Congress an event has occurred which it becomes us to notice. The American people have lost a Vice President, and the Senate a Presiding Officer, by the death of WM. R. King, who departed this life on the 18th of April last, at his home in the State of Alabama. I rise to ask that we may pause for a day at least in our deliberations won the affairs of life to devote it to the memory of one who was bound to us by so many personal and official ties Surely, sir, there are none within the limits of this widespread Confederacy, to whom the life and services of Wm. R. King are known, who would not be ready with some offering, either of public respect or personal affec-tion, to bestow upon his tomb. There have been few public men whose lives have been as long and as active as s who have made more friends, and none, I am sure ever left fewer enemies. Nor was his one of those cold and impassive characters which shed their light without heat, but its kindly influences fell with genial and friendly warmth within whatever circle he might move. It is a happy thing for a country when the lives of its

public men may be thrown freely open to the world and

challenge its closest scrutiny, with a consciousness on the part of the friendly critic that there is no blot to be concealed, and no glaring fault which a love of truth forbids him to deny and his own sense of right scarcely allows him to palliate. Here, at least, is a public man in whose life there can be found no instance of a mean or equivo-cating action, none of a departure from the self-imposed restraints of a refined and lofty sense of honor, and none in which either the fear of man or the seductions of ambition tempted him to a deed which could destroy either his own self-respect or the respect of others for him. He trod the difficult and devious paths to political preferment long and successfully, and yet he kept his robes unsoiled but his spotless name, and his entrance on the well-earn-by the vile mire which so often pollutes those ways. It ed honors of his unambitious career. And we, Senators, is said that the story of every human life, if rightly told. may convey a useful lesson to those who survive. the public men whom I have known, there are none whose lives teach more impressively the great moral of the strength which public virtue gives than that of Col. King. His was an instance in which greatness was achieved without the aid of those brilliant qualities whose rare assemblage the world calls genius, but, by what is better for, a sound judgment, a resolute purpose to pursue the

right, and a capacity to gather wisdom from experience. He was no orator, and yet from the force of character he could wield an influence which mere oratory never commanded. He had none of that presumptuous selfconfidence which se often misleads ourselves and others, and which, though a dangerous, is still a commanding quality; but he knew how to inspire a people with a just confidence in the soundness of his judgment and the integrity of his purpose, so as to be looked to as a safe de-

positary of trust and power.

Although gentle and kind in his intercourse with others he could be stern enough when the public interests or his personal honor required it. He was a man, sir, whose whole soul would have sickened under a sense of personal

It is not surprising, then, that each step in the political career of such a man should have been crowned with public honors. At the age of twenty-one he was elected to the Legislature of North Carolina, his native State, served until he was made Solicitor. In that capacity he acted until he was twenty-five years of age, when he was sent to the House of Representatives of the United States, where he served from 1811 to 1816, when he resigned to go abroad as Secretary of Legation to Mr. Pinckney, our Minister to Russia. Upon his return he emigrated to Alabama, where he was almost immediately sent to their Constitutional Convention.

And at the first session of the first Legislature which assembled afterwards he was sent to the Senate of the United States from the State of Alabama, where he may be said to have served continuously until his election to the Vice Presidency, with the exception of two years, when he was Minister to France. Finally, he was elected the Vice President of the United States by a large majority of the American people. As he ascended step by step to this elevation, his vision seemed to grow with his horizon, and when the occasion came he was always found equal to it; for, to the aid of a sound judgment, he brought, as he grew older, the wisdom of a large expe-

His political career may be said to have been one umphant march through life-s march in which his step neither faltered nor stumbled in ascending to that place which was perhaps the chief object of his aspiration yet, as if to show that even the most successful of men ust sooner or later feel the emptiness of the earthly objects of our usual pursuit, that much-prized honor was to It came, but it came too late. The breath of public plause could not revive the flame which flickered in the amp of life. In vain did the assiduity of relatives and friends surround him with affectionate care. In vain did the aspirations of a whole people ascend to Heaven for his recovery. The balmy influences of neither sea nor sky could revive or restore him. When the public messenger came to clothe him with the forms of office, his chief earthly wish was to see his home once more, and in the midst of familiar scenes to die amongst his friends. is desire was gratified. Life and its busy scenes on this side the grave are now closed on him forever; but its tale yet remains to be told. Not by me, sir, or at this time. But it will be told in the chronicles of his State hereafter, when it may become a labor of love to some of her sons to write the story of its founders and sages. It will be told in our own political history by whoever may portray the stirring and eventful scenes in which he act-ed a prominent and useful part. It will be told, too, and perhaps heard, with most interest in the traditions of a

amily of which he was the ornament and pride. Mr. President, those to whom our people have been long accustomed to look in times of difficulty and emergency for counsel and opinion are falling fast around us. It is an anxious thing to feel their loss at a period like this, pregnant with change, and teeming, perhaps, with great and strange events. The men we cannot recall; but let us preserve their memories; let us study their. teachings, and it will be well if, in many respects, we shall follow their examples.

I offer the following resolution:

with black; and, as a further testimony of respect to the me-mory of the deceased, the members of the Senate will go into Gourning by wearing crape on their left arm for thirty days.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. President, I have been request ed to second the motion which has just been made by the Senator from Virginia. I do so with great cheerfulness. It was my good fortune to enjoy the acquaintance of the late Vice President—I hope even some portion of his friendly regard—for a longer period probably than most of those within the sound of my voice—a period of nearly thirty years. Such being the case, I feel as if I ought not to remain silent at this last moment, when our relations to him as members of this Senate are, by the perormance of this day's melancholy duty, about to be closed forever.

There is an ancient maxim, sir, founded at once in justice and right feeling, which bids us "say nothing but what is good of the dead." I can obey this rule, in re-ference to the late Vice President, without violating the most scrupulous dictates of sincerity. I can say nothing but what is good of him, for I have never seen or heard Mr. CLINGMAN gave notice of a motion to about a much of the existing rules as provide for the calling of the States for petitions. Also, of a motion to provide for the States for petitions. Also, of a motion to provide for the States for petitions. It would hardly be expected of me to attempt to detail the States for resolutions.

Senate bill to indemnify the State of Indiana for the failure of title to a township of land granted to said State on her admission into the Union in 1816 was next taken up, and read twice.

I regret, particularly on this occasion, the unavoidable absence of our colleagues from Alabama. It is the province of those of us not connected with him by political vince of those inhabiting remote parts associations, especially of those inhabiting remote parts of our common country, to express their cordial concur-rence in the affectionate praises which have been or may be pronounced by his fellow-citizens and neighbors.

Few of the public men of the day had been so inti mately associated with the Senate as the late Vice Presilent. I think he had been a member of the body for more years than any person now belonging to it. Besides this, a relation of a different kind had grown up between him and the Senate. The Federal Constitution devolves upon the people, through the medium of the Electoral Colleges, the choice of the presiding officer of this body. But whenever the Senate was called to supply the place temporarily, for a long course of years, and till he ceased to belong to it, it turned spontaneously to him.

He undoubtedly owed this honor to distinguished quali-fications for the chair. He possessed, in an eminent degree, that quickness of perception, that promptness of ecision, that familiarity with the now son ated rules of Congressional proceedings, and that urbanity of manner which are required in a presiding officer. Not claiming, although an acute and forcible debater, to rank with his illustrious contemporaries, whom now, alas! we can mention only to deplore—with Calhoun, with Clay, and with Webster, (I name them alphabetically, and who will presume to arrange them on any other principle?) whose unmatched eloquence so often shook the walls of this Senate—the late Vice President possessed the rare and the highly important talent of controlling, with impartiality, the storm of debate, and moderating between mighty spirits whose ardent conflicts at times seemed to hreaten the stability of the Republic.

In fact, sir, he was highly endowed with what Cicero beautifully commends as the boni Senatoris prudentia, the "wisdom of a good Senator;" and in his accurate study and ready application of the rules of parliamentary law, he rendered a service to the country, not perhaps of the most brilliant kind, but assuredly of no secondary importance. There is nothing which so distinguishes the great national race to which we belong than its aptitude for government by deliberative assemblies; its willingness, while it asserts the largest liberty of parliamentary right, to respect what the Senator from Virginia in another connexion has called the self-imposed restrictions of par-iamentary order; and I do not think it an exaggeration to say that there is no trait in their character which has proved more conducive to the dispatch of the public business, to the freedom of debate, to the honor of the country-I will say even which has done more to establish and perpetuate constitutional liberty.

The long and faithful Senatorial career of the late Vice President received at last its appropriate reward. The people of the United States, having often witnessed the disposition of the Senate to place him at their head, and dignified and acceptable manner in which he bore himself in that capacity, conferred upon him a twelvemonth since that office, which is shown by repeated and recent experience to be above the second, if not actually the first, in their gift-the office which placed him constitutionally and permanently, during its continuance, in the chair of the Senate.

A mysterious dispensation of Providence has nipped these crowning honors in the bud. A disease, for which the perpetual summer and perfumed breezes of the tropics afforded no balm, overtook him at an age when he might, in the course of nature, have reasonably looked forward to still many years of active service. Clothed by a special and remarkable act of Congress, even while under foreign jurisdiction, with the constitutional qualifications to enter upon the high office to which he had been elected, he returned, not to exercise its functions, but to seek his much-loved home, and there to die. *
Thus, sir, he has left us to chase for a little while longer

alities. He has left us, sir, prematurely for every thing flexible truth, he won the entire confidence of men of for all the interchange of kindness, for all the intercourse of private life, for all the acts of co-operation in the pubic service, to which for at least four years the Senate was looking forward in its connexion with him, have nothing left to offer to his friends and his memory but the unavailing tribute of this last mournful farewell.

I second the resolutions of the Senator from Virginia. Mr. CASS. Mr. President, again has death invaded the righ places of our land, and has taken from us a citizen distinguished by his talents, his worth, and his services. and enjoying the confidence and affection of his country-In the providence of God these visitations come to warn us that none are exempt from the decree that in life we are in the midst of death, and that be ye also ready is a solemn admonition announced to us from the cradle to the grave by the mighty and the lowly as they successively fall before the great destroyer. The lesson is the more impressive the higher the position and the more eminent the character of him whose departure we may be called upon to mourn. And when one who occupied the second station in our country is summoned from the duties of this life to the responsibility of that which is to come, as the loss is a national one, the manifestation of public sympathy and the acknowledgment of the public grief should be national also. Our lamented friend, the late Vice President, has been taken from us, full of years, indeed, and of honors, but in the midst of his usefulness, and when he was just prepared to enter upon the high career to which he had been called by the American peo-ple. Upon this occasion I desire to do little more than to express those sentiments of affectionate regard with which an acquaintance of many years had inspired me, leaving to others, who have this day well fulfilled the task, to present those features of his character and services which endeared him to his countrymen in life, and

will endear to them his memory now that the scenes of life are forever closed upon him.

His career was eminently useful and fortunate, and in the whole range of American statesmen there are few, indeed, to whom our youth can better, look when seeking models of imitation and encouragement, than WM. R. KING. Firm but courteous, frank and fearless, of high honor and irreproachable morals, he brought a vigorous intellect and varied and extensive information to the public councils; and the ripe fruit of his experience, joined to these endowments, gave conviction to his opinion and authority to his example. We always heard him with attention, for he elucidated every subject he investigated, and brought to our discussions the stores of his knowledge and experience with a manner as unassuming as it was captivating. While loving the State in which he so long ided, and which had given him so many proofs of con fidence and affection, he loved also our common country, and at home and abroad proved himself the true patric the able and faithful citizen. In all the relations of private life he was loved and honored, as well from the amenity of his manner as from the kindness of his heart, and in the social circle be was the very model of the accomplished gentleman. For almost half a century he was in the public service, and was intimately connected with many of the great events which marked that long and ing period; and he proved himself equal to all the circumstances in which he was placed, sustaining himself with signal ability among men whose renown is written in imperishable characters upon the history of our country. But better than all this, and above all this, he was a sincere Christian; adding another to the long list of eminent men who have searched the Gospel of Jesus and

have found it the will and word of God. In his last illness, when the world and the things of the world were fast fading before him, he found hope and consolation in the promises of the Saviour; and, caimly surveying the approach of death, he looked beyond its power to the gloimmortality promised to the believer. that knew him will know him no more; but, though dead, his memory is embalmed in the hearts of his countrymen, and there it will live, honored and cherished, long after all those who are now taking part in this tribute to his worth shall have followed him in the journey where, for a brief space, he has preceded us through the dark valley of the shadow of death.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I can scarcely hope to add any thing of value to what has been so well said by others. For the last eight months the mournful event, which is now offiounced to the Senate, has been known, felt, and lamented by us all. In the mean time we have passed through scenes well calculated to engross our thoughts Resolved, That from respect to the late William R. King, and divert our attention, if not to obscure the freshness Vice President of the United States and President of the Se. of the first impression or assuage the keenness of that

construction of a railroad from Montgomery, Alabama, to | nate, the chair of the President of the Senate be shrouded | sorrow which filled every heart. But, no matter what the lapse of time nor its results, the meeting of the Senate, and the absence of one whom all admired and loved and delighted to greet and honor, calls up associations and reminiscences which impart to the occasion all the effects of a sudden and unexpected bereavement. Those whose happiness it was to be associated with Colonel King in public duty and private intercourse are alone capable of realizing the extent of our loss. His example in all the renear this country have ever served the public for so long a period of time, and none with a more fervent patriot or unblemished reputation. For forty-five years he devoted his energies and talents to the performance of arduous public duties, always performing his trust with fidelity and ability, and never failing to command the confidence, admiration, and gratitude of an enlighten-ed constituency. While he held, in succession, numerous official stations, in each of which he maintained and enhanced his previous reputation, yet the Senate was the place of his choice and the theatre of his greatest usefulness. Here he sustained an enviable reputation during a period of thirty years Senatorial service, always man festing his respect for the body by his courtesy and pro-priety of deportment. Here, where his character was best understood and his usefulness and virtues most highly appreciated, his loss, as a public man and a private friend, is most painfully felt and deeply lamented

Mr. CLAYTON. I shall only pay a debt of honor to Mr. CLAYTON. I shall only pay a debt of honor to the spirit of the dead, by offering my humble testimonial in addition to what has been so appropriately and elo-quently expressed by others. A quarter of a century has elapsed since I became acquainted with Wm. R. King as a brother Senator on this floor. During the greater part of that long period I was an attentive observer of his course as a public man, and I cannot in justice remain silent when an opportunity is offered of paying a tribute to the

emory of one who so honorably deserved it.

That man who, dying, can be said to have passed hi days without a stain upon his reputation has justly earned the honors due to a well-spent life. The Roman poet has immortalized the sentiment-

"Nec vixit male, qui natus moriensque fefellit," and William R. King may be truly said to have passed from the cradle to the grave without a blot upon his

The chief part of his history is written upon the records of this Senate, in which his high character as a legislator and statesman was firmly established. I would avoid the common plans employed on occasions similar to the present when speaking of such a man. It is not enough to say of him that he performed his duties well as a member of the Senate. He was distinguished by the scrupulous correctness of his conduct. He was remark able for his quiet and unobtrusive, but active, practical usefulness as a legislator. He was emphatically a business member of the Senate, and, without ostentation, originated and perfected more useful measures than many wh filled the public eye by greater display and daily commanded the applause of a listening Senate. He never sought, with some of his contemporaries, to earn a brilliant reputation by the exhibition of splendid powers of oratory; and, to his honor be it spoken, he never vexed the ear nate with ill-timed, tedious, or unnecessary debate. He preferred to be checked for silence rather than to be tasked for speech. Yet, on all occasions when a great issue was before the country calling for the exercise of manly firmness, courage, and patriotism, Mr. King was always with those who stood foremost for the safety and the glory of the Republic.

He graced that chair of the Senate longer than an ther man that ever occupied it-not continuously, or b virtue merely of repeated elections as our temporary President, but often also at the request of the Presidin Officer. I think he was thus engaged in the performance of the duties of President of the Senate during the great er part of the terms of five Vice Presidents: and at last reached the second office in the gift of the people-a office excelled in honor only by one other in the world To preside over such an assembly as the Senate of the United States, and to do that as he did it, was enough to satisfy the highest aspirations of an honorable and pa-triotic ambition. In this elevated position he was dis-tinguished (and I may add he never was excelled) for the dignity of his deportment, the impartiality of his decisions, and the promptness and fidelity with which he maintained the order and enforced the rules of this body can remember no instance in which he lost sight o what was due to his own self-respect or the rights of his political opponents by the indulgence of party feelings in the chair. Presiding as he did when party spirit raged in torrents of fire, all just men will admit that he could have been no common man who maintained his high character for justice and impartiality at such a period. A little man at that time would have shown his littleness by yielding himself up as an instrument of oppression to the minority. But he sought an honest and enduring fame, and he obtained it without the employment of any unworthy means or the slightest sacrifice of principl the engaged no hireling press, no mercenary libeller to traduce others or to trumpet his own fame. He paid respect to the feelings of others, and rigidly exacted the observance of the same respect for himself. Generous as Thus, sir, he has left us to chase for a little while longer the shadows which he has exchanged for unutterable reder defeat was always liberal and kind; and, by his in-

Others have spoken of his services in other places, but I shall speak of nothing to which I was not a witness. While Mr. King remained in the Senate there was still one member of the body who had served with me on this floor during the session of 1829-'30. It is melancholy to reflect that nearly all the rest of the Senators of that period have closed their career on earth, and that not on of those who survived remain here with me to-day.

The master spirits of the time were among the tors of that day. I speak not of the living. then, were Clay, Calhoun, Forsyth, Webster, and Livingston, the learned and laborious Woodbury, the astute Grundy, the witty, sarcastic, and ever-ready Holmes, the Robbins, and, among many others justly distinguished, the graceful and accomplished orator of Caroli na, Robert Y. Hayne,

"Whose words had such a melting flow, And spoke of truth so sweetly well, They dropped like the screnest snow, And all was brightness where they fell."

Oh! I could enumerate and delight to dwell on the virtues of them all; and then revert to him whose fame we now commemorate as to one not inferior in integrity and honor to the proudest among them. But these re miniscences are attended by the mournful reflection that our connexions with them in this world are ended for

"Around us each dissevered chain In sparkling ruin lies, And earthly hands can ne'er again Unite those broken ties."
olutions were then unanimously adopted. Mr. HUNTER. As a further mark of respect to the

nemory of the deceased, I move that the Senate do no The motion was agreed to; and the Senate adjourned

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. On motion of Mr. JONES, of Tennessee, it was ordered

that when the House adjourn to-day, it adjourn to meet on Monday next. On motion or Mr. EASTMAN, the House then proceed ed to consider the bill of the House for the relief of Alex ander P. Field, late Secretary of Wisconsin Territory, and his sureties, returned from the Senate with an amend ment, when the amendment was concurred in. So the

bill stands passed. NOTICES OF BILLS. The States and Territories were then called for petitions, during which the following notices for leave to in

roduce bills were given : By Mr. McMULLEN: A bill to equalize the compensation of Members of Congress.

By Mr. PERKINS, of Louisiana: A bill granting to the State of Louisiana the right of way and a denation of public land for the purpose of locating and constructing a railroad from Shreveport to the Mississippi river, in

By Mr. WASHBURNE, of Illinois: A bill for the relief of the purchasers of and locators on swamp and over-

said State.

By Mr. GREENWOOD: A bill donating a portion of the public lands to aid in the construction of the der Railroad, commencing with the southwestern boundary of the State of Missouri, thence in a south direction, by the way of Van Buren and Fort Smith, to the boundary of the State of Arkansas, near the Red river raft.

By Mr. LATHAM: A bill to refund to the State of California the expenses incurred in suppressing Indian aggressions in that State.

NEWSPAPERS FOR MEMBERS. Mr. RIDDLE submitted a resolution, which, after some onversation, was modified and adopted, providing that during the present session each member of the House newspapers and publications to the amount of the cost of five daily papers.

LIBRARIAN OF THE HOUSE. Mr. BAYLY, of Virginia, said that the librarian of the House had heretofore been appointed by the Clerk. His appointment by that officer, however, had been pretty much a matter of sufferance, and to regulate this subject he would offer the following resolution: Resolved, That this House will proceed on o'clock, to elect an officer to be called the Librari

the messenger appointed by the Clerk to act as librarian: Provided, That said messenger shall be dispensed with, and that the number of messengers heretofore employed by the Clerk shall be one less than is now authorized.

Mr. DEAN said that he desired to debate the resolu tion, and therefore it would have to lie over. Mr. BAYLY claimed that he had not yet yielded the floor, and demanded the previous question on his propo-

Mr. DEAN hoped the House would not sustain the demand for the previous question, as he desired to move an amendment to the resolution.

The previous question, however, was seconded: Aves

Mr. MACDONALD moved that the resolution be laid on the table; which motion was negatived: Yeas 94, nays 108.

The question then recurred on the adoption of the re-

solution; but before the vote was taken-DEATH OF VICE PRESIDENT KING.

A message was received from the Senate announcing the proceedings of that body on the death of Vice Presi Mr. HARRIS, of Alabama, then rose and, after pro-

nouncing a eulogium on the character and services of the deceased, offered the following resolutions: Resolved, That from an unfeigned respect to the late WM. R. King, Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate, the Speaker's chair be shrouded in black during the present session of Congress; and, as a further testimony of respect for the memory of the deceased, the members and officers of this House will go into mourning and wear black crape on the left arm for thirty days. Resolved, That, as a further mark of respect, this House do

Mr. CHANDLER, of Pennsylvania, seconded the reso Mr. CHANDLER, of remarks, and was followed by Mr. LATHAM, of California, Mr. TAYLOR, of Ohio, Mr. ASHE, of North Carolina, Mr. BENTON, of Missouri, and Mr. PHILLIPS, of Alabama; all of whem bore testimony to the valuable public services and great purity of character of the lamented statesman.

The resolutions were then unanimously adopted, And the House adjourned.

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE TREASURY REPORT.

Messrs. Editors: In the report of Mr. Secretary Guth-RES, just laid before Congress, is found the following pa-

ragraphs : Besides the \$2,243,000 which was found at the comm ment of my official duties to have been advanced to agents for the purchase of the public debt, it was ascertained that the further sum of \$475,000 was in the hands of agents under agreements to transfer the same for the De partment to different places of deposite, together with the sum of \$2,226,982.27 unaccounted for, and designed to

It is proper to state that all the above sums have been replaced in the Treasury except \$100,000, for which suit has been instituted at Columbus, Ohio, and is still pend

A pledge of stocks of various descriptions was taken for part of the \$4,944,982.27, but none had been taken for the \$100,000 in suit in Ohio.

The above paragraphs, though it is presumed not so in tended, convey the impression that the large sum of more than two millions of dollars was left by the late Administration in the hands of private agents of the Treasury for paying the interest on the public debt. The system and mode of paying the public interest was organized and adopted by Mr. Secretary WALKER immediately after the passage of the Subtreasury law, and the private agents that were to pay a portion, and only a comparatively small portion of this interest, were selected and appointed by him; one (Messrs. Corcoran & Riggs) in this city, and one (J. S. Gittings, Esq.) at Baltimor All the other agents were official ones, being assistan treasurers of the United States and treasurer of the mint. Neither of Mr. Walker's successors (Messrs. Meredith and Corwin) made any change either in the system or the agents, but continued, up to the close of their respec tive terms of office, precisely in the same course as had been followed by Mr. Walker.

The following is the mode in which the interest wa paid under the plan adopted by Mr. W. All the public interest is payable semi-annually, on the 1st of January and the 1st of July respectively, and the books of transfer are closed at the Treasury on the 1st of December and 1st of June previously, when the schedules of the interest are prepared and forwarded to the respective official and private agents, and only a few days previous to the time of payment the money is placed in their hands To those at all familiar with the subject it is notoriou that three-fourths of the semi-annual interest is drawn by the holders of the stock in the first forty-eight hours after it is due, and probably nine-tenths within the month that the balance at any time remaining in the hands of the assistant treasurers or the two private agents is very

Though nearly all the interest was thus promptly call ed for and paid, yet, in order to simplify the accounts and to afford full opportunity for all to obtain their interes at points most convenient to them, one of the rules adopted by Mr. Walker was, that any balance that might remain unclaimed in the hands of the agents should not be refunded into the Treasury until after the expiration o twelve months, when they returned their vouchers and settled their accounts, and up to that period the whole sum that had been originally placed in their hands re mained to their debit on the books of the Treasury.

By adding together the gross amounts that had thu been placed in the hands of the agents at previous semiannual periods, the large sum stated in the report can no doubt be obtained. Although the accounts had not been adjusted, and the amounts therefore remained to their debit on the Treasury books, yet nearly the whole of it had been actually paid to the public creditors within a few days after it left the Treasury, and the actual amount remaining in the hands of those agents was less than \$120,000, viz. about \$113,000 in the hands of the agents in this city, and about \$6,000 in the hands of the one in Baltimore, both of which sums were promptly refunded on call into the Treasury. So promptly and so close is the public interest paid up, that out of \$1,100,000 remitted semi-annually to the Assistant Treasurer at New York to pay the interest due there, he seldom, on the settlement of his dividend account, has a balance of more than \$4,000 or \$5,000 to refund into the Treasury; and the above balance in the hands of the agents in Washington was unusually and accidentally large, in consequence of the State of Texas having delayed presenting the coupons, amounting to nearly \$100,000, on that portion of the five millions of the five per cent. stock which had been issued to her, which she still retained.

That stocks, as collateral security, were not deposite in the Treasury for the above sum of \$2,226,982.27, is very naturally accounted for, from the fact that the above sum was paid in smaller amounts at intervals of six months, and four-fifths of it paid to the public creditors in a few days after it was received; and it could hardly be reasonably expected that the parties should depo site security for that amount when they had already paid out upon account of the Government upwards of \$2,100, 000 of the sum, and never had one-fourth of the amoun in their hands at one time, and (except only a small balance of that fourth) but for a few days. It was different with the amount of transfers, for all which, except the \$100,000 in Ohio alluded to by the Secretary, most am ple security was held by the Treasury in the shape of available stocks; and those transfers were either actually due or would be so in two or three weeks after the late Administration went out of power, and it is presumed were punctually paid up; or if they were not, the Treasu ry, by the sale of the pledged stocks, could at any time have realized the full amount in twenty-four hours. Ample and available security was likewise held for the whole sum of \$1,750,000, alluded to in the report as being placed in the hands of a New York broker, which amoun was liquidated by the delivery of United States stock to the amount of about \$1,500,000, and the balance in cash For the \$493,000, stated to be in the hands of a house in this city, the stock was in course of being purchased and \$200,000 of it had actually been delivered to the Treasury previous to the change of Administration, and the balance, amounting to nearly \$300,000, so soon as it could be bought up in the market with proper caution. The whole was actually delivered during the month of March, and on a final settlement of the account a balance was found due to the banking house in question, which House of Representatives, who shall have charge of its books and documents, and shall discharge the same duties and receive the same pay that are now discharged and received by

tageous terms to the Treasury, and at a great saving on | the prices at which subsequent purchases could be or

tioned in the above extract from the report, amounting together to \$4,469,982.27, upwards of \$2,100,000 had been actually paid to the public creditors-some of it eighteen months previously; \$2,000,000 more of it had already been or was subsequently settled by the delivery of United States stock purchased under the original agreement, at favorable rates; and the balance (less than \$400,000) was the only sum that was "replaced in the Treasury." Of the whole of that amount actually in the hands of the parties ample and available security was deposited with the Department, except for about \$420,000, of which \$300,000 was cancelled by the delivery of United States stock during the month of March, and \$120,000 in cash, so soon as demanded.

The preceding explanation has been given as an act of ustice both to the late Secretary and the eminent bankers who have acted with such uniform correctness, fidelity, and promptness as the agents of the Treasury ever since the nactment of the Subtreasury law in 1846. We will only add that there was nothing in the system and management of the money concerns of the Treasury, under the late Whig Administration, for which there was not the most ample precedents, and on a much more extended scale, under their immediate Democratic predecessors.

We are not yet prepared to say whether the changes introduced by Mr. Guthrie are an improvement on the mode of conducting the business for the last eight years, for it is yet to be proved by future experience whether this will result in greater safety or in greater conomy. JUSTICE.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER. A Plan for the Construction of one or more Railroads to the Pacific, by CHAS. ELLET, Jr., Civil Engineer.

RICHMOND, (VA.) DECEMBER 1, 1853. One may well hesitate to offer an additional plan for securing the construction of a railroad to the Pacific, to be thrown in among the multitude of suggestions already before the country. But still I feel inclined to make my humble contribution, venturing to express the conviction that if its general features are adopted it will at least insure the rapid construction of not only one but all the

the pleasure of Congress to authorize and encourage. To secure the prompt filling up of the subscription lis I propose that each subscriber shall receive for every share of stock for which he may subscribe, and for which he shall pay in cash at the time of subscribing, in addition to his stock, a land-warrant of value equal, at the Governmental price of land, to the value of the share. To guard against a monopoly of the land and of the stock, I propose that the number of shares which may be taken

roads from the Mississippi to the Pacific that it may be

in any one name shall be limited. Briefly, my plan is this: I. Congress shall charter one great Northern and one great Southern company, with power to the first to construct a railroad from the western boundary of Missouri to the eastern boundary of California by a northern route ; and to the second to construct a road from the western boundary of Arkansas to the eastern boundary of California, by the Gila or best southern route.

II. Congress shall also charter a company with power o construct a branch road from any point on the western boundary of Iowa to any point on the northern line not more than 300 miles west of its eastern terminus; and another company with like power to construct a branch road from any point on the western boundary of Texas to any point on the southern line not more than 300 miles west of the eastern terminus of that line.

III. The Northern companies shall have the right, with the consent of the States of Iowa and Missouri, to extend their roads eastwardly across the said States to the Mississippi river; and the Southern companies shall have like power, with the consent of the States of Arkansas and Texas, to lay their respective lines through any portion of the said States: provided that the right to extend their roads eastwardly from the western boundaries of the several States shall not be exercised, or exist, until at least 300 miles on each main line and the whole length of each branch line west of the aforesaid States hall have been completed and brought into use. IV. Both the Northern and Southern company shall

have the right to extend their respective roads across the State of California, with the consent of the Legislature f that State, to the shore of the Pacific.

V. Each of the companies so chartered shall have the right to connect with any roads running from their eastern termini to the Mississippi river, or from their western termini to the Pacific ocean, and, with the consent of the States under which such companies hold their charters, to contract with the said companies either for an entire amalgamation of their respective stocks, or for such limited union as may seem to the contracting parties best o promote their mutual interests.

VI. The amount of aggregate capital of each of the companies so to be chartered shall be subject to such imitations as Congress may hereafter from time to time prescribe. The value of the shares shall be \$50 each.
VII. Subscription books shall be opened simultaneusly, on due notice, to be published by proclamation of the President of the United States, at the capital of every

State in the Union, at the city of Washington, and gene ally at all the great commercial cities of the country, and shall be kept open for a period of thirty days. VIII. No person shall be permitted to subscribe for more than ten shares of stock, (\$500:) but heads of families may subscribe for ten shares for and in the name f each member of their families.

IX. For each share of stock so taken the value thereof \$50) shall be paid to the commissioners in gold or silver at the time of subscribing.

X. There shall be issued to each subscriber, for each

share of stock for which he shall have subscribed and paid, a certificate in the usual form, and, together therewith, a land-warrant for forty acres, with the right to ener the same on any of the public lands of the States which may be subject to entry. XI. After the expiration of thirty days the books shall

be closed, and the subscribers to each road, whether few or many, shall be an incorporated company, capable of sueing and being sued. XII. The several companies shall then be organized by he appointment of one President and three Directors for e of road, which appointments shall be made by

the President of the United States and confirmed by the XIII. When the capital so subscribed shall have been exhausted in prosecuting the legitimate works of either of the several companies, or, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, it is expedient to provide additional funds in anticipation of its exhaustion, the said Board of Di-rectors shall certify the fact to the President of the United States, who shall thereupon issue his proclamation, di-recting the re-opening of the books as before by commis-sioners to be by him appointed; the books again to con-

he amounts which may be subscribed by any one person, as before provided. XIV. Persons who subscribed at the first opening of he books shall not be prohibited from subscribing at the

inue open for thirty days, with the same limitations of

second or any subsequent opening thereof.

XV. The tenure of office of the President of each com pany shall be four years, unless he be sooner removed by the appointing power. The tenure of the Directors shall be such that one shall go out every year, and his successor shall serve for four years, unless sooner removed.

The President and Directors shall receive liberal salaries, to be established by law, and paid out of the funds

of the company. They shall act as trustees of the stock-holders, and shall represent their interests in all things with the same authority as would under ordinary charters be exercised by the stockholders themselves, if they could be convened in general meeting.

XVI. Whenever the stockholders of either

shall choose to meet in general convention, and the holders of a majority of all the stock in the company shall vote for a President and Directors other than those appointed by the President of the United States, then the

XX. The tracks shall have a width of six feet betweed the rails, and spaces not less than eight feet wide between

XXI. The companies so chartered shall carry the United States mail and render other specified services forever, free of charge.

XXII. Citizens of the United States only shall be quali-

fied to become stockholders as original subscribers.

The peculiar advantages of this plan, I think, are It will secure the construction of two great roads from the proceeds of the public lands.

It will secure the rapid filling up of the subscription It will obviate the difficulty of deciding between a

Northern and a Southern route, by providing abundantly It will cause the distribution of the stock in the several roads, with its profits, great or small, among the peo-

ple generally.

It will effectually cut off all speculation and the chances of all speculators.

It will distribute property in the public lands widely,

and among the masses in small quantities.

It places the control of the works under compact and efficient administrations. It avoids the great abuses apprehended and likely to

grow out of internal improvements conducted by Federal Government. This plan does not propose to give away the public lands. It divides them among the people, for a consideration to be paid by the people. The whole people are the sellers, and all the people may become the purchasers.

The sale of the lands in small quantities will be a pub-

lic benefit; and the speedy construction of the roads will inure to the advantage of the whole country, and of all the people in the country.

The North will be benefited by the sale of the lands,

which Northern people may buy; and by the application of the proceeds of the sale, which will improve the commerce of the North. The South will receive the same benefit as the North:

for the plan provides equally for a great Southern line. Southern capital and Southern people will have an equal chance to purchase the land and share the stock, and will receive equal benefit from the expenditure of the funds.

The Old States will be benefited, because their citiaes can purchase the land and become part owners of the roads; and also because they are secured for a season against the agrarian policy which contemplates a general

livision of the public domain without a consider The New States will be benefited, because a large area of the public lands will pass into the possession of private individuals, become liable to taxation, will be more speedily settled and more speedily cultivated.

In short, the whole country, and every part of it, will be benefited by the sale of the lands, and also by the application of the funds.

In the thirty days during which the books will be kept open many millions of dollars will be subscribed to

the stock of the several roads and paid in, but under the limitations proposed not enough to complete either of the lines. The plan contemplates a replenishing of the trea-sury from time to time, as the works advance, by reopening the books, on the application of the Directors, and by proclamation of the President, and the receiving criptions limited, as before, to ten shares of stock

I do not know whether this plan will be popular or unpopular, nor whether it will be deemed constitutional or constitutional; but I know that it is democratic and just, and certain, if adopted, to effect the result which the country is anxious to secure—the prompt commencement and rapid construction of not only one, but two railroads to the Pacific.

VARIETY.

Surgeon THOMAS G. MOWER, the senior surgeon on the army list, who served throughout the war of 1812, died in New York on Wednesday.

Pennel Hendricks has been convicted at Raleigh (N. C.) of passing counterfeit gold coin, and fined \$2,500 and sentenced to be imprisoned and confined to hard labor for

A proposition is before the South Carolina Legislature to appropriate \$30,000 to build a monument in Columbia honor of John C. Calhoun.

The new Odd Fellows' Hall at McKeesport, Pa., fell down on Tuesday, dreadfully injuring five workmen. Hon. THOS. CORWIN has been elected President of the Sincinnati and Cleveland short-line railroad, and Judge

McLEAN one of the directors. JAMES MONTGOMERY, the poet, has just completed his

The Whigs of North Carolina are to hold a State Convention at Raleigh on the 21st of February. Jonas Chickering, the famous manufacturer of pianos, lied at Boston, of apoplexy, on Thursday night.

An excitement was produced in the National Circus at Philadelphia on Wednesday evening by an slarm of fire, and a number of persons were trampled under foot as the crowd rushed from the building. No one was se-

riously hurt. Three men, named McMenamen, Delayhey, and Thos. Healey, were crushed to death on Monday in an iron mine at Conshobocken by the falling of a piece of rock

The duties collected at St. Louis upon foreign imports are upwards of \$400,000 each year.

WRECK OF A STEAMER -We learn from the Oneber Mercury of Saturday evening that Capt. Rodolph, late commander of the steamer Montreal, arrived at Quebec on Friday evening with the intelligence that the Montreal is a total wreck. A sheet of ice struck the ill-fated boat with such force as to cut her in two as far down as the engines, and at the same time it drove the steamer Point Levi hard ashore. The latter had been sent to the relief of the Montreal, which was a very fine boat, certainly equal to any on the St. Lawrence.

ALTERED BANK NOTES .- Twenty-dollar bills of the Bank of Baltimore, of date of January 1, 1851, have been altered to \$100, and so skilfully done that the unwary may be deceived by them. The genuine \$100 bill has Tuscan figures in the left hand corners, above and below, and also on the right-hand corner. In the altered bills the figures are plain, and only in the left-hand upper cor-ner. In the genuine bill the vignette—which consists of a shield with a sailor on either side—is in the centre; while in the altered bill it is near the right-hand corner. There are other variations.

SENSIBLE .- Capt. McClure, while making the " Northwest Passage," had an interview at Point Warren with a wild wibe of Arctic Indians, the chief of whom being asked why he went a great distance to trade with the Esquimaux, instead of trading with the posts on Mackenzie's river, said the reason was that the white men there had given the Indians very bad water, which killed many and made others foolish, and that they would not have any such water. Think of that, ye hardy men of the 40th the cold ! A RARE PLANT.-We saw on Saturday, in the green-

house of O. F. Winchester, Esq., Court street, the most beautiful flower that has ever come under our observation. It is a tropical plant, called by the natives "Espiritu Santo," (or Holy Ghost,) and was sent to Dr. Totten, of this city, by his brother, Col. Totten, of the Panama railroad-a duplicate of which was also given Dr. Cope, of road—a duplicate of which was also given Dr. Cope, of Philadelphia, last spring. It is a most remarkable exotic. The blossom is of a delicate waxy appearance, the interior of which represents a pure white dove, with outstretched wings, richly mottled. Its delicious fragrance and long period of remaining in blossom combine to render it a most desirable plant.—New Haven Register. LIBRARIES AT CONSTANTINOPLE. -There are numerous

libraries at Constantinople; the number of volumes which they contain may be estimated at 80,000, reckoning both MSS. and printed books. The literature of Arabia, Persia, and Turkey is represented in them; and the collec-tion includes philosophical and theological works, poetry, history, books of science, and an immense number of those treatises on conduct and manners, to which the Turks attach almost as much importance as the Chinese

Post Office Robbery.—A young man named Sela Mat-thews has been arrested at Watertown, New York, charged with robbing the post office at that place. Over one hundred letters broken open were found in his trunk, with drafts to the amount of \$700. He had been employed in the office

What a Scotchnan May Broome.—At a meeting held in Edinburgh last week to obtain "justice for Scotland," Sir A. Alison, the historian, related the following anec-

vote for a President and Directors other than those appointed by the President of the United States, then the appointees of the President shall be superseded in office by the persons so chosen by the stockholders. But if, at any time thereafter, the stockholders should fail to elect their own officers, it shall be the duty of the President of the United States again to exercise the power originally conferred on him, and fill the vacancies.

XVII. The President and Directors shall have power to appoint all other officers and agents of the company, excepting the Treasurer, who shall be appointed by the President of the United States, and confirmed by the Senate.

XVIII. The Boards thus constituted shall forthwith commence locating, and with all reasonable dispatch constructing, their respective roads.

XIX. The road beds of each of the roads shall be graded for double-sidings on each side.

**Gentlemen, one very curious thing occurred to show how Scotchmen do rise all the world over, and with this anecdote I will conclude. Marshal Keith had the command of the Austrian army, which long combated the Turkish forces on the Danube, under the Grand Vizier came mounted on a camel, with all the pomp of Eastern magnificence. The Scotch Marshal Keith, from the neighborhood of Turriff, in Aberdeenshire, at the head of the Austrian troops, had a long conference, and after the conference the Turkish Grand Vizier said to Marshal Keith accordingly went in, and the moment they entered, and when the conference in the tent was closed, the Grand Vizier than they entered, and when the conference in the tent was closed, the Grand Vizier than they entered, and when the conference that the Grand Vizier of Turkey and the conference that the Grand Vizier of Turkey and the conference that the Grand Vizier of Turkey and the conference that the Grand Vizier of Turkey and the conference that the Grand Vizier of Turkey and the conference that the Grand Vizier of Turkey and the conference to the Austrian army, which long combated the Turkish G